

Spruce Bluff: Spruce Bluff was the earliest pioneer settlement in the County, established in 1889 by Scandinavians. It consisted of small school-house, sawmill, post office, and a 7 person cemetery. The settlement's founder, John Fultz, sailed the St. Lucie River to Stuart and back to deliver mail at the rate of \$10 a month. Pineapple became the cash crop in the region, but suffered greatly in the freeze of 1894 where most of the fruit in the area was destroyed. By 1905, the original families moved to Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County was formed. Fultz also moved to Fort Pierce and became the first County Clerk of Court. However, this area was inhabited by native americans prior to Spruce Bluff's establishment by the Ais people. The Indian mound (8SL10) on this site is approximately 180 feet in diameter and 20 feet high, was first discovered in 1853 during a survey for potential homesteading possibility, and is listed by the state as an archaeological site. It is believed that mounds on this coast were used for burial purposes. By 1715, most of the Ais were gone, most likely suffering decline due to introduced diseases by Europeans.

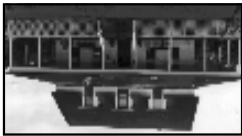


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Oxbow Eco-Center: This Center is St. Lucie County's premier environmental learning center and features an excellent exhibit featuring the St. Lucie River. Visitors can get a glimpse into the River's main sections, including the flora and fauna associated with each, early history of the River, and what visitors can do to become better stewards of their watershed. The dock provides a good point to stretch your legs and hike your choice of trails, and the Center has a unique gift store that is also worth stopping for.

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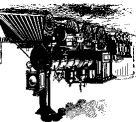


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Captain Hammond's Hammock: Captain Hammond was a New England sea captain that became one of the first snowbirds of the area. He has this house built in 1902 as a winter retreat. The lumber used in construction of the Danish influenced house was from heart of pine that was logged from the property and milled in Stuart, and the fireplace bricks were made from the sand and clay on site. The Captain had one daughter, Mary, who rented out the house to army couples during World War II. Only having 2 owners in 100 years, this house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located at coordinates 80° 20' 34.7"; 27° 21' 49.0".

Residents were very recreation minded and set the Park aside for everyone's enjoyment. Living in a floodplain, most residents kept a rowboat tied to their porch as Midway Road flooded almost every summer.

White City Park: A young Copenhagen newspaper reporter was so impressed by the FL exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 that he determined to establish a new Danish city in the citrus belt. Danish settlers arrived in 1894 when Flagler's railroad reached Fort Pierce and found a "jungle mudhole". White City was named so in honor the World's Fair lights, and the main road was named after the Midway. A Colonel Meyer took over at promoting and developing the City, but then ran off with the profits in the baggage car on one of Flagler's trains in the middle of the night..never to be heard from again. The Big Freeze of 1894 wiped out most of the area's agriculture, and Flagler tried to compensate by opening a commissary and granting a dollar a month credit to every settler who had not already left the area disillusionsed with American business practices. Seminole Indians came through town and often brought alligator hides and raccoon and other skins to trade for coffee, flour, and sugar.



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Strazulla Site: In 2003, a pilot hydrological restoration project was undertaken by the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that reconnected a historic "oxbow", or riverbend, that was previously cutoff due to piling of spoil deposits during the channelization. Other restoration projects undertaken by FDEP include shoreline stabilization and oyster reef restoration further downstream.

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Platt's Creek: This St. Lucie County owned and managed site is 100 acres in size and will be undergoing restoration from citrus groves to historic and natural communities, such as floodplain forest, hydric hammock and depression marshes.

Ten Mile Creek: The Ais and Guacata/Santa Luce Indians, were the early inhabitants of the area and used Ten Mile and Five Mile Creeks and the St. Lucie River for transportation and for providing the resources they needed to survive. During high water, these waterways also enabled them to travel as far north as the St. Johns River. Artifacts were discovered during an archaeological dig while constructing the South Florida Water Management District's Water Preserve Area (WVPA). Four distinct prehistoric sites were found, all with artifacts 2-4 thousand years old. Sites included an unusually high concentration of prehistoric ceramics and stone tool material, which are rare finds in south Florida. Other artifacts recovered include drilled sharks teeth, which implied that these early people had ocean-going canoes, or traded with people who did. People have been living off the St. Lucie and its headwaters for a very long time.



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Interesting Facts about some of the Sites

About the North Fork St. Lucie River:

In the 1880s, the River was freshwater and flowed into the Indian River Lagoon. The headwaters are found at Ten and Five Creeks, which converge and travel south. Historically, the original headwaters originated many miles up Ten Mile Creek, and during high water, were actually connected to the St. Johns River.

In 1892, the St. Lucie inlet was dug, giving the River direct access to the Atlantic Ocean, changing the river to an estuary.

In 1905, the FL State Legislature created the Board of Drainage Commissioners to help deal with flooding issues. The River was channelized, and spoil from the dredging was piled on the banks, thus altering the floodplain. The Everglades Drainage District constructed the St. Lucie Canal (C44), which drains Lake Okeechobee, from 1916 to 1928. The canals created to drain the land into the River have dramatically altered the original watershed.

In 1972, part of the North Fork (south of Midway Rd to the Estuary) was designated as an Aquatic Preserve and Outstanding Waterway



because of its high biological value. Supporting temperate and subtropical aquatic species, it is important to many species of fish such as snook, snapper and the opossum pipefish that require both fresh and estuarine water to complete their life cycles.

Today, efforts have been underway to restore part of the River back to its natural and historic course and vegetative communities. Practices to store and filter stormwater runoff before it reaches the Estuary and Indian River Lagoon have also been enacted. With proper stewardship, residents and visitors alike can help to preserve this area's greatest natural treasure.

Paddling Tips

- Be aware of water levels, currents and weather conditions. Take caution in summer when thunderstorms are frequent; try to take shelter in advance of bad weather.
- Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). Florida law requires a Coast Guard approved, readily accessible and wearable PFD with whistle for each occupant. PFDs must be worn by all occupants under age 6.
- Bring plenty of food and water. Drinks should be in non-breakable containers and food and gear in watertight containers. At least 1/2 gallon of water per person is recommended for day trips.
- Wear sunscreen, protective clothing and footwear and a hat. Try to minimize the risk of sun exposure and dehydration by drinking water before getting thirsty, and regularly throughout the day. Apply sunscreen liberally and reapply as necessary, even on cloudy days.
- Paddle in a group or with a buddy if possible. If paddling solo, file a float plan by letting someone know where you're going and when you'll be returning.
- Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn the bow into the wake. Respect anglers.
- In case of emergency, dial 911.

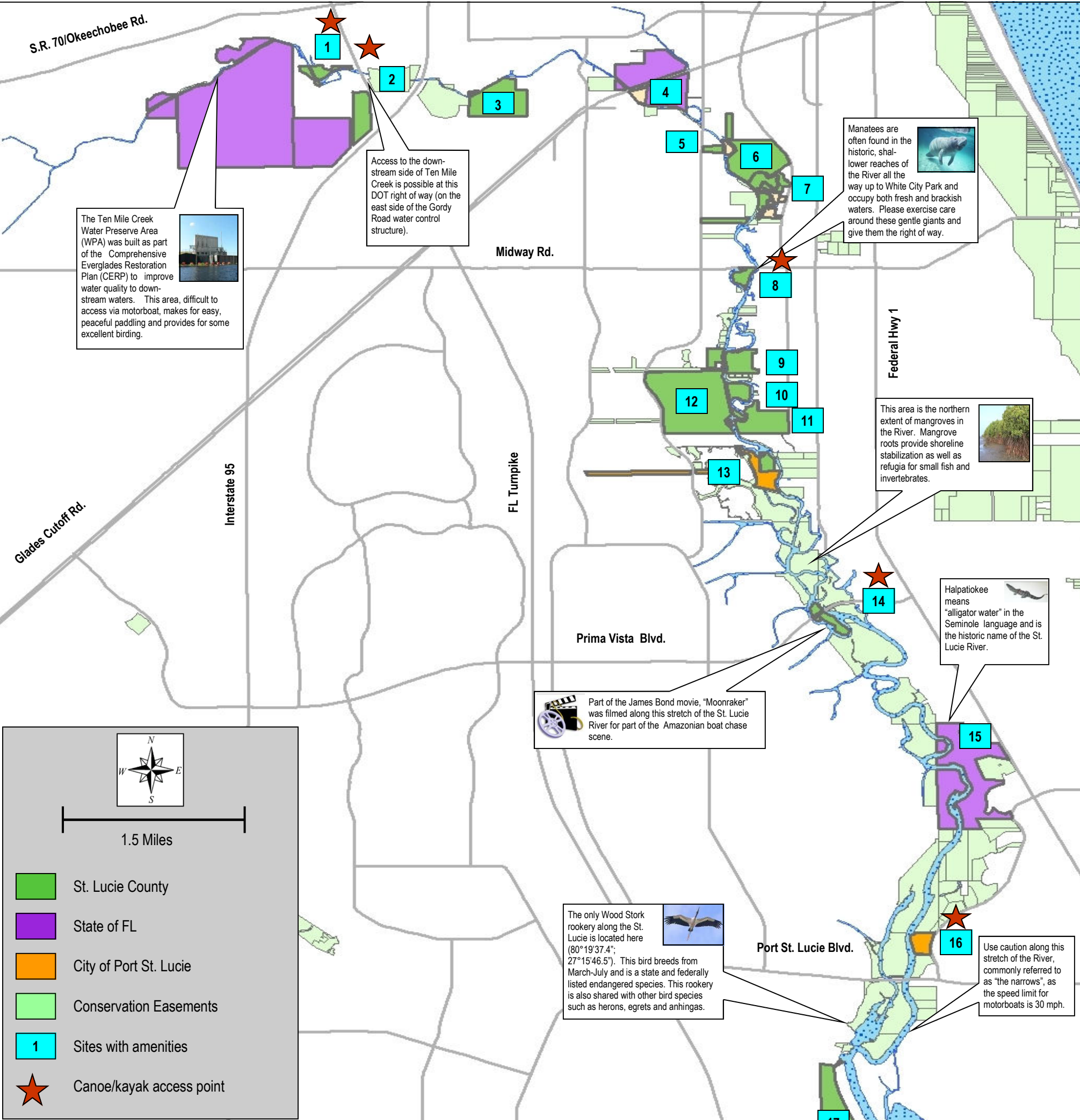
Leave No Trace Ethics

- Don't litter or pollute the water with trash or other wastes (try to pick up trash when you see it).
- Be respectful of wildlife. Do not approach, harass or attempt to feed animals.
- Do not access private land without permission.
- Be considerate of other visitors.
- Leave what you find.

North Fork St. Lucie River Paddling Map



Produced and Published by
St. Lucie County
Environmental Resources Department
2300 Virginia Avenue
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982
772-462-2525
www.stlucieco.gov/erd



#	Site Name	Canoe Launch	Canoe Dock	Canoe Slip	Picnic Tables	Nature Trail	Interpretive Trail	Restrooms	Camping	Parking	Status	Comments	GPS Coordinates
1	Ten Mile Creek Natural Area	X					X			X	Open	Parking limited to 4 cars	80° 25'32.36" W; 27° 23'52.30" N
2	Spillway			Planned	X					X	Open	Parking limited/Fishing Available	80° 23'52.17" W; 27° 24'09.55" N
3	George Lestrangle	X	Planned	Planned			X			X	Open	Lake (Catch & Release)	80° 22'57.06" W; 27° 23'37.72" N
4	North Fork SLR Parcel of Savannas Preserve State Park		X			X				X	Open		80° 21'40.40" W; 27° 24'03.07" N
5	Sweetwater Hammock			X	X		X			X	Open		80° 23'29.22" W; 27° 20'49.81" N
6	Platt's Creek		Planned			Planned				Planned	2010	Restoration area	80° 20'44.66" W; 27° 23'33.72" N
7	Strazulla		Planned				Planned		Planned		2010	Canoe access only	80° 20'36.26" W; 27° 23'12.04" N
8	White City Park	X			X			X		X	Open	Boat Launch; playground	80° 20'39.80" W; 27° 22'17.20" N
9	Captain Hammond's Hammock		X		X		X				Open	Canoe access only	80° 20'44.60" W; 27° 21'44.00" N
10	Goat Island		X		Planned		Planned		Planned		2009	Canoe access only	80° 20'36.10" W; 27° 21'20.10" N
11	Citrus Hammock		X		X		Planned			Planned	Open	Canoe access only	80° 20'38.80" W; 27° 21'09.70" N
12	Oxbow Eco-Center		X		X	x		X		X	Open	Nature Center; gift store	80° 20'48.20" W; 27° 21'09.00" N
13	River Place City Park		X		X	X		X		X	Open		80° 20'35.80" W; 27° 20'52.40" N
14	River Park Marina	X			X	X				X	Open	Boat Launch; fishing piers	80° 19'57.80" W; 27° 19'23.80" N
15	Halpaticokee		X			X				X	Open		80° 18'52.10" W; 27° 18'19.60" N
16	Veteran's Memorial/Rivergate Park	X			X		X	X		X	Open	Boat Launch	80° 19'12.20" W; 27° 16'31.20" N
17	Spruce Bluff		Planned	X	X		X			X	Open	Historical interest; see back	80° 19'52.50" W; 27° 15'36.90" N